

# SHIFT

the life we are meant to live



March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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## Living Daily In The Kingdom

### 1. REJECT THE FALSE NARRATIVES:

- A. Faith In Jesus is more important than a Relationship With Him.
- B. The only way to be a good Christian is to Keep All The Rules.

### 2. EMBRACE THE JESUS NARRATIVE:

Abide In Me and you will bear much fruit.

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. - John 15:5-8 ESV*

*I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken. - Psalm 16:8 ESV*

*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. - Colossians 3:1-2 ESV*

# SUSTAINING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS

*We must choose...*

## 1. Narrow-Gate Discipleship over Wide-Gate Non-Discipleship

***“Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. <sup>14</sup> For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. - Matthew 7:13-14 ESV***

## 2. Heart-Driven Virtue over Image-Making Niceness

***“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. <sup>16</sup>You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? <sup>17</sup>So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup>A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. <sup>19</sup>Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup>Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. - Matthew 7:15-20 ESV***

## 3. Relationship-Sustaining Obedience over Performance-Driven Deeds

***“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ - Matthew 7:21-23 ESV***

## 4. Rock-Solid Action over Sand-Shifting Inaction

***“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. <sup>26</sup>And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. <sup>27</sup>And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” - Matthew 7:24-27 ESV***

# LIVING UNDER HIS ASTONISHING AUTHORITY

***And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes. - Matthew 7:28-29 ESV***

## I Will Shift by...

- Memorizing [Psalm 16:8](#).
- Abiding in the nourishing presence of Jesus and His Word.
- Taking seriously Jesus' call to action-driven discipleship.
- Giving my life to Jesus as Savior and Lord, for the first time.

## WALK THE TALK

### A Growth Group Guide

1. How do you “abide” in Christ? What is your experience with this?
2. Why do so many claim that doing the things Jesus commands is not necessary in order to be a Christian?
3. Review the two false narratives above in the outline. How do they get close to the truth but still remain false in their statements?
4. Of the Four Images Jesus gives at the end of the Sermon on the Mount (see outline above, under *Sustaining Our Relationship With Jesus*), which one is the most challenging to you? Explain.
5. Give an example of how *not* doing what Jesus teaches (all his teaching in the Sermon on the Mount) has led to harm in your life or the life of someone you know.
6. How do you keep the fire burning? What are the activities that fuel your spiritual life?
7. What part of the Sermon on the Mount is most helpful to you right now?

# SOUL TRAINING – LIVING ONE DAY DEVOTIONALLY

## A Personal Transformation Exercise

### The Principle:

Madame Jeanne Guyon (1648-1717) is a woman who lived in France and wrote a lot about the spiritual life. Her most famous book is the classic *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*. Madame Guyon suffered a great deal in her life, but she managed to develop a deep relationship with God that brought her great peace.

Madame Guyon wrote a treatise to her daughter concerning how to order her daily life around her faith. She titled it *How to Pass the Day Devotionally*. It is a short and simple, yet profound way, to pause throughout the day in order to reconnect with God. Most times, we do our “devotions” once, maybe twice, in the day. We set aside a bit of time to make room for God. By living a day devotionally, we are going to allow for multiple times throughout the day for us to be with God. You may find that the stress of the day is easier to deal with and you are more at peace. Hopefully, as you practice this more and more, you find yourself drawing closer to the heart of God and seeing your relationship flourish like never before.

### The Plan:

Try one day practicing Madame Guyon’s Method:

1. Go to bed at a reasonable hour. Remember that sleep is important! It was our first soul training!
2. Turn your thoughts to God as soon as you wake up.
3. Spend a half hour in a time of devotion.
4. Set aside time to read a devotional book.
5. Turn to God in prayer throughout the day. Pause in-between activities for five or ten minutes.
6. Set aside time to read from the Bible. This is not an in-depth Bible study. Perhaps listen to it through a Bible app on your phone!
7. End your day with self-examination and prayer. As you fall asleep, think over the day and ask yourself if there is anything you should or should not have done.

Try to make these practices routine in your life. Don’t let this one day be the only time you live devotionally. These soul training activities are meant to become part of the routine of your life!